REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim amendment

Allowable claims 1 and 5-10 are not amended.

Claim 11 is amended to incorporate limitations from claims 12, 15 and 18.

Claims 12-20 are cancelled either as redundant or to simplify prosecution.

Claims 11, 12 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Geers. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in relation to claim 1. The rejection of claims 12 and 14-20 is moot due to cancellation of claims.

Claim 11 requires an inline flow sensor for providing a signal indicative of flow of gas from a cylinder containing liquid petroleum gas; and a processor responsive to the sensor signal and communicating with the heater, the processor being configured to energize the heater with power from the power source when gas flows from the tank. Geers does not disclose or suggest these claim elements.

Geers differs from the claimed invention in the following respects:

Geers is directed to a refrigerant supply tank, and not a cylinder containing liquid petroleum gas.

Geers does not teach use of an inline flow sensor for providing a signal indicative of flow of gas.

Geers teaches a number of sensors, but none are "a flow sensor inline with the hose for providing a signal indicative of flow of gas" and Geers does not "energize the heater with power from the power source when gas flows from the cylinder as indicated by the flow sensor".

Geers discloses the following sensors:

The temperature sensor described at col. 2, lines 12-16 senses excessive temperature and turns off the heater.

The pressure sensor described at abstract, line 9, and col. 2, lines 20-22 is primarily for the purpose of stopping heating when the pressure is too high (abstract, line 9, and col. 2, lines 20-22

The pressure sensor described at col. 2, lines 34-52 is used to determine whether or not the hose is properly attached to the supply tank and the target tank and that the supply valve is open. It does this by measuring absolute pressure in the line. It is not used to determine flow as the pressure difference between the two tanks does not come into play.

Control of the heater when the pressure differential between the tank S and tank R becomes too low appears to be achieved manually (col. 5, lines 32-35), and in any event does not comprise an inline flow sensor sensing gas flow and activating the heater when gas flow occurs from the tank. Geers only controls onset of the heater based on a pressure differential set point (col. 5, lines 60-62) and this appears to be carried out by manual observation.

Therefore, Geers does not disclose or suggest the same thing as claimed in claim 11.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted, and certified as being faxed to the USPTO on Feb 23/07.

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